

OLC 75-0017

9 JAN 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT: Reports to the Congress on Covert Activities

1. Section 32 of the Foreign Assistance Act amendments of 1974 provides that "No funds appropriated under the authority of this or any other Act may be expended by or on behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency for operations in foreign countries, other than activities intended solely for obtaining necessary intelligence, unless and until the President finds that each such operation is important to the national security of the U. S. and reports, in a timely fashion, a description and scope of such operation to the appropriate committees of the Congress, including the Committee on Foreign Relations of the U. S. Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the U. S. House of Representatives."

2. In compliance with the provisions of this legislation, I have submitted to the President a statement with respect to such activities so that he might make the necessary finding and authorize me to make the appropriate report to the committees of the Congress.

3. After this legislation was approved by both houses of the Congress, I contacted the managers of the bill in each house (Senator Humphrey and Representative Zablocki) to inform them that, of course, we intended to comply with the provisions of this section and assumed that it was not the intention of the Congress to terminate ongoing activities for a reasonable period of time during which compliance with the provisions of this legislation could be accomplished. I received assurances from them that this was a reasonable interpretation of the intention of Congress.

4. I have subsequently received a letter from the Acting Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee asking whether the Agency has terminated existing programs pending the Presidential finding and report to the committees. Senator Sparkman's letter and my response are attached.

5. It is my expectation that the President will act on the necessary documentation shortly. In the interim you will continue covert action programs that were in effect at the time of enactment of this legislation. No new programs are authorized during this period. If we have not received the approval of the President by 31 January 1975, all operations in foreign countries other than those activities intended solely for obtaining necessary intelligence will be terminated. Preparations should be made for that contingency.

LS/WEC

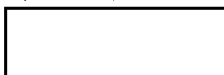
W. E. Colby
Director

Attachments

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OLC/GLC:bao (9 Jan 75)



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